

Rep. Brad Miller Meets with President Bush About Africa Trip; Miller Introduces International HIV/AIDS Accountability Bill

Washington, D.C. - Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13) attended a meeting with President Bush at the White House today to discuss the President's recent visit to Africa. The meeting coincides with Rep. Miller's introduction of *The PEPFAR Accountability and Transparency Act* this week that would closely evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. global HIV/AIDS effort, and help speed the delivery of lifesaving medicines and therapies to those who need it most. Part of the Miller bill language was also included in the reauthorization of PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, passed by Congress five years ago and reauthorized in the House Foreign Affairs Committee this week.

"Over the past twenty-five years scientists have learned a great deal about the HIV virus," said **Rep. Miller**

. "As the science of HIV/AIDS has advanced, the need has also increased to implement efficient and high quality prevention, counseling, testing, care and treatment services to maximize the dollars we invest in these programs. We need to ensure that PEPFAR funds are being spent wisely to help prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and to give those living with it hope."

Like its companion bill in the Senate introduced by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Rep. Miller's bill represents a vital step in the U.S. effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. It would elevate operations research - determining best practices and evidence-based solutions - as a new core function within PEPFAR. It would also require development of a five-year strategic plan to set priorities for the implementation of operational improvements.

"Representative Miller has shown great leadership in striving to maximize PEPFAR's lifesaving potential," said Pamela W. Barnes, president and chief executive officer of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. "By focusing on best practices and evidence-based solutions, this bill will help us reach even more women, children and families with crucial prevention and treatment services in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We applaud Representative Miller for introducing this legislation and urge Congress to pass it as part of the reauthorization of PEPFAR."

As of April of 2007, PEPFAR has supported the treatment of 1.1 billion people; and as of September 30, 2006, supported the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission during more than 6 million pregnancies and facilitated care for nearly 4.5 million people, including more than 2 million orphans and vulnerable children.